Bangladesh. A Joint Press statement was also issued by the three Ministers on 13.1.2005 in which Government of Bangladesh has 'in principle' agreed to allow laying of natural gas pipeline fromMyanmar to India through Bangladesh territory. The three Ministers also agreed to constitute a Techno-Commercial Working Committee (TCWC) to prepare an MoU for cooperation ior implementation of Myanmar-Bangladesh-lndia Pipeline Project which will finally be signed by the three Governments. The draft MoU was negotiated and initialed in the first meeting of the Techno-Commercial Working Group in Yangon on 24-25 February, 2005. Formalities are now being completed for three Ministers to jointly sign the MoU at Dhaka shortly.

(b) While the possibility of importing gas from Myanmar by the sea-route of LNG or CNG is not foreclosed, subject to the findings of the detailed project report and the pricing of gas at the well-head in Myanmar, it would appear *prima facie* that the pipeline route is a desirable option to ensure our energy security in East and North-East India.

(c) The draft MoU provides for transit through Bangladesh for gas from Myanmar to India and the right of India and Bangladesh to inject into, and siphon off, their own gas using the same pipeline.

(d) these details will be worked out by the Project authorities and submitted for approval to the three Governments concerned.

(e) and (f) Natural gas from Myanmar will immensely benefit the gas starved Eastern States of the country and would attract significant investment for the industrial development of these States.

Profits of Oil Companies

†97. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
DR. MURLIMANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the consumer sales prices of petrol and diesel were, last time, fixed in'November 4, 2004 in the country.

(b) if not, on what date they were fixed;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the average profits of the oil companies have increased in the country after the above period; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) if so, the details regarding the increase in the profits of oil companies belonging to public and private sector?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUMAND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) The selling price of diesel was last revised by the oil marketing companies (OMCs) effective mid-night of 4th/5th November 2004. As a result of this revision, the retail selling price (RSP) of diesel in Delhi increased from Rs. 24.16/litre to Rs. 26.28/litre. As regards petrol, the last revision took place effective mid-night of 15th/16th November 2004. As a result of this revision, the RSP of petrol in New Delhi came down from Rs. 39.00/litreto Rs. 37.84/litre.

(c) and (d) The profit after tax of oil marketing companies as per unaudited financial results for the period October-December '04 as compared to October—December '03 are tabulated below:

	Rs./Crores	
	Oct-Dec. '04	Oct-Dec. '03
IOC	1286.76	2403.44
BPC	145.70	484.30
HPC	235.92	775.71
IBP	(-)98.01	39.25
Total	1570.37	3702.70

As regards the private sector oil companies, the information is being collected.

ONGC's Power Plants

98. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUMAND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the major power plants under ONGC in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether there is any plan to set up new plants in Andhra Pradesh in the current year;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (d) Other than captive power plants for consumption by operational units, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) do not have power plants either in Andhra Pradesh or anywhere